Simplification of Import Procedure

5236. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have simplified the import procedure recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas specified under the liberalised procedure; and

(d) the effect of such simplification on foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). As a follow up of the new Trade Policy announced by the Commerce Minister on 4.7.91, the import procedures have been simplified to a great extent. New units and units undergoing substantial expansion, which are fully covered by foreign equity, will now be granted import licences for import of capital goods other than those appearing in the Restricted List, without advertisement procedure, certification of essentiality, clearance from indigenous angle as well as approval of the concerned Capital Goods Committee. The number of documents for obtaining Exim Scrip has been reduced to merely one whereas the number of documents for obtaining an advance licences has been reduced from 9 to 6. Import of cars can now be effected by the eligible applicants directly through the Customs, without obtaining a Customs Clearance Permit from CCI&E as before.

(d) The simplification of import procedures does not have a direct bearing on the foreign exchange reserves.

Application of Annewari System on Farmers

5237. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for stipulating the conditions of 'Annewari System' being applied for determination of non-wilful defaulter farmer;

(b) whether this system differs from area to area;

(c) if so, whether the system has adversely affected the people of any particular area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e). According to the provisions of the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, non-wilful defaulters are those borrowers who did not repay their loans or loan instalments due and experienced two or more bad crop years, whether consecutive or not, one of which was the year in which the default occurred. Both a view to adopting an objective criteria for assessing due damages, the ARDR Scheme sought to link crop damages to Annewari declarations of the State Governments. A methodology for declaring Annewari as a pre-condition for providing relief so borrowers in prevalent in most of the States/ Union Territories. The instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development about the procedure for declaration of Annewari is the same throughout the country. Wherever annewari system is not in vogue, certificates issued in the past for the year of calamity by the State Government or delegated authorities were accepted as proof of bad crop year.